

REMARKS

Claims 3-6, 8, 15, and 17-20 are pending in the Application, and claims 9-13 have previously been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 3-6, 8, 15, and 17-20 are indicated as being allowable. Withdrawn claims 9-13 are canceled herein. Allowance of the Application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Cancellation Of Withdrawn Claims

In the Office Action of November 19, 2004, the Examiner states that "Applicants are advised to cancel the non-elected claims (9-13)." Because of the Applicants' wish to expedite the allowance and issuance of the present Application, Applicants herein cancel withdrawn claims 9-13 without prejudice to thereby place the Application in condition for immediate allowance.

The Applicants expressly state that the withdrawn claims are not cancelled herein for reasons of patentability. The withdrawn claims are cancelled solely to expedite the allowance and issuance of the Application. Furthermore, the Applicants also reserve the right to seek allowance of any additional claims in Applications that may claim priority in the present Application.

Allowable Subject Matter

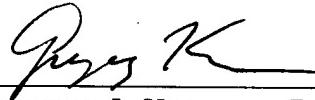
In accordance with the Examiner's indications in a prior Office Action, the Applicants have previously amended claims 3, 6, 8, 15, 17, and 18 in independent form to include the limitations of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims, to thereby place claims 3, 6, 8, 15, 17, and 18 in condition for immediate allowance. The remaining non-cancelled dependent claims depend from respective corresponding ones of the foregoing independent claims 3, 6, 8, 15, 17, and 18, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

Summary

Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments and remarks place the Application in condition for immediate allowance. Because the cited references, or the Examiner's citations thereto, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention, and in light of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited prior art, Applicants therefore submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully request the Examiner to allow the present Application in a timely manner. If there are any questions concerning this amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/2/05

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